

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01695 140326Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W
-----003951 140328Z /75 R

P R 140130Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0063
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KULLA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: TSCI, SN
SUBJ: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STAFFING

REF: STATE 093187

1. THE EXTENT OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OF POSSIBLE
INTEREST TO THE USG IN SINGAPORE IS VERY LIMITED.
ALTHOUGH SINGAPORE HAS THE SECOND HIGHEST PER CAPITA GNP
IN ASIA, THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH IS LARGELY
DEPENDENT ON IMPORTED TECHNOLOGY. LITTLE ORIGINAL
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK HAS BEEN DONE
HERE. SOME ACADEMICS ARE INTERESTED IN THE STUDY OF
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES, AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME
LIMITED USE OF SOLAR ENERGY, BUT THIS HAS INVOLVED NO
REAL INNOVATION.

2. THE GOS ROLE IN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IS SMALL;
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAS AN FY78
BUDGET OF ONLY US\$16.5 MILLION. THE MINISTRY'S MAIN
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EFFORTS LIE IN FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION
(THROUGH SUCH PROJECTS AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
EXHIBITION COMPLEX CALLED THE SINGAPORE SCIENCE
CENTER) AND IN FACILITATING THE TRANSITION TO THE
METRIC SYSTEM.

3. IN THE EMBASSY, SCIENCE MATTERS ARE HANDLED BY AN

OFFICER IN THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL/POLITICAL SECTION.
GIVEN THE LIMITED NATURE OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN
SINGAPORE, THAT OFFICER SPENDS ABOUT TWO MAN-HOURS A
WEEK ON SCIENCE MATTERS. THE EMBASSY -- WHOSE
OVERALL STAFFING LEVEL IS SUBJECT TO GOS CEILING --
CONSIDERS THIS ADEQUATE.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Concepts: DATA, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, NEGOTIATIONS
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